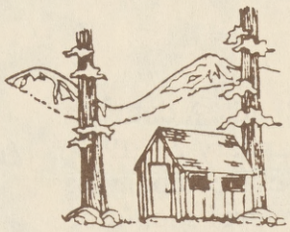

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY
2936S. WEST ST.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93277

December 1988

2ND. ANNUAL "PICNIC IN THE PARK"

Al Pietroforte presented "Songs of the Yokut and Paiute Indians", at the 2nd. Annual "Picnic In The Park" in Mineral King, July 23, 1988. Even the heavens responded to the spirit of the program--the clouds gathered over the valley and it started to rain! It was truly an unforgettable performance. Many thanks to Al for transporting the audience to a time when Native Americans celebrated the splendor of Mineral King.

The "Honeymoon Cabin" was open for tours, as well as the Eben Pinkham, Curtis Dungan and Fleek Cabin in East Mineral King. We wish to thank the Pinkham, Dungan and Fleek families for their hospitality.

WESTERN REGION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (WRNPS)

Two historians from the NPS in San Francisco (Western Region), Mr. Gordon Chappell and Mr. Rick Borges (architecture) were visitors to Mineral King during August 9 and 10, 1988. The VIPS spent two days with MKPS historian John Elliott conducting a survey to assess the historical integrity of the cabins in Mineral King.

Each cabin was inspected according to criteria used to assess "integrity" for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Structures must be at least 50 years old. Approximately 75% of the building must be of original or "like" material. In order to be considered a historical community, at least two-thirds of the structures must qualify. Members will be kept informed as to the progress in further negotiations relating to the Mineral King Historic District.

The NPS is most willing to cooperate with the MKPS throughout the National Register process. The assistance of these knowledgeable individuals was greatly appreciated.

CONTRACT WITH MKPS HISTORIAN

The MKPS Board of Directors has signed a contract with John Elliott to proceed with a Phase I Draft Report of the "Mineral King Historic District." The report will include a Contextual History, Description of the Resources, and Archaeological Potential. Phase II will include the other historical components which must be completed prior to the official designation of the Mineral King Historic District.

MINERAL KING MINING 1873-1900

The MKPS exhibit will remain in the Ranger Station at Mineral King through the winter. We are grateful to have an on-going exhibit in the valley for the enjoyment of all visitors. The popular display has furnished one more way for the MKPS to spread the word about our organization.

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HIKE DOWN THE OLD MINERAL KING ROAD

Plans are being made for another hike down the old Mineral King Road. A date has been set for Saturday, January 14, 1989, with a "rain date" of Saturday, January 28, 1989. Boy Scout Troop #334, Lemon Cove, with Scoutmaster, Joe Marks will be accompanying us. It is usually a perfect time to make a trip to the foothills. The water level should be accommodating due to the snowpack in the high country.

WHEN: Saturday, January 14, 1989 or "rain date" January 28, 1989

WHERE: The hike will begin at 9:00 A.M. on the above dates. Meet at the entrance to the old Mineral King Road at Cain Flat, several curves above Oak Grove Bridge. The walk will take approximately 4 hours.

BRING: Pack Lunch, drink, change of shoes and socks for hike.

MEMBERS ONLY! PLEASE CALL US IF YOU PLAN TO GO:

Ora Kay Peterson (209) 734-6150
Don Pinkham (209) 594-5663

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Henry Brown, member of the Tulare County Historical Society and MKPS, has just had his book published entitled "Mineral King Country." It tells the history of the valley, glacial erosion; mining boom, and bust; a starting point for countless excursions to Mt. Whitney and other back country destinations; the hikes taken by the early Sierra Club and the adventures told through first hand accounts of the packers and early pioneers. Cost: $17.50 from Pioneer Publishing Co. and available through Midtown News in Visalia.

"Beulah" by Louise (Crowley) Jackson is still available through the MKPS. Cost: $16.91 with tax. This book is a full history of Mineral King, from its discovery in 1863 until its inclusion in Sequoia National Park in 1978.

The Mineral King Preservation Society is starting its 3rd. year of existence. We wish to thank you for all your support throughout our activities and historical research. With your continued help we shall have the National Register and documentation nearly complete by this time next year.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and we look forward to another grand adventure into the history of Mineral King in 1989. Again, we would like to invite you to renew your membership in the MKPS.

Jim Barton

Jim Barton, President MKPS
P.O. Box 205
Three Rivers, CA. 93271
(209) 561-4205

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HONEYMOON CABIN AND RESTORATION

In each MKPS Newsletter we will feature tidbits of the history of one of the cabins in Mineral King. In this issue we want to share information on the "Honeymoon Cabin". Since the Cabin has been the "Logo" for the MKPS it is appropriate to begin the series with this cabin. We hope to jog your memories so you might in turn add your input, stories, photos, etc.

The historical name of the "Honeymoon Cabin" is the "Cabin on the Point", or "Point Cabin". It is located at the trailhead to White Chief, Eagle Lake, and the Mosquito Lakes. It is the last of the rental cabins from the old resort of the Mineral King Store and Post Office era. It was built in the 1920s.

In 1932 there was a "slow" snow slide that came off the hill above, which very gently moved several cabins in the area. The "Honeymoon Cabin" was impacted. There was little structural damage because it only moved several feet. A handyman by the name of Harvey Watts repaired the cabin. In the next 30 years or so, many people enjoyed a stay in this cabin. It's romantic setting brought about its obvious connection with honeymooning in Mineral King.

One of the objectives of the MKPS is to preserve, maintain and protect historical buildings and sites within the Mineral King Historical District. The MKPS was unable to complete the restoration of the Honeymoon Cabin this past summer. Major repairs to the foundation will have to be made by a professional contractor.

A separate fund has been established to receive donations for this worthwhile project. No matter how small, all donation will be gladly received. All donations to the MKPS are IRS deductible under Section 501(c) (3), Case Number: 958156040, Employer I.D. Number: 77-0174309. Send contributions to:

"Honeymoon Cabin" MKPS
2936 S. West St.
Visalia, CA. 93277

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